

University Senate Meeting Minutes

Nov 24, 2025

Call to Order

Senate President John Donnellan called the meeting to order.

Zoom Voting Test

Conducted by Senate Secretary Moitrayee Chatterjee.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda for November 24, 2025.

Moved by Rubina Vohra, Seconded by Unspecified (voice vote). Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of October 27, 2025.

Moved by Joyce Wright. Seconded by Marilyn Ettinger. Motion carried.

President's Report

Gratitude expressed to faculty, staff, students, adjuncts, Local 1839, and administration.

Recognition of guests joining the meeting Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, SVP of Administration at Kean U and A.C.E Fellow assigned to Kean U Dr. Salvador Mena, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Experience at Rutgers – New Brunswick

Update on SAC meeting (Nov 20) and motions related to NJCU–Kean integration.

Motions and Actions

Motion 1: Pause 30-Day Automatic Approval in CIM Workflow. This motion applies to all items in the CIM workflow, including curriculum changes.

Original request: Pause until Dec 15, 2025; amended to June 30, 2026.

Moved by John Laski. Seconded by Venessa Garcia.

Discussion: Clarification provided by Scott O'Connor that the motion still allows faculty to submit proposals, and committees may review and approve them, and the pause only removes automatic approval.

Result: Motion carried.

Motion 2: Written Disclosure of Kean Approval Process

Original deadline: Dec 1, 2025.

Action: Postponed until shared service agreements are finalized.

Moved by John Laski, seconded by Hanae Haouari. Motion carried.

Motion 3: Senate Representation on Integration Working Groups

Confirmed by President Acebo as expected and required.

Result: Approved by consensus.

Academic Standards Committee Motion

Proposal: Include winter session in GPA review; limit credits for students on probation; require dean/provost override.

Result: Motion failed (integration with Kean policies anticipated).

Faculty Concerns

Sabbaticals: NJCU will not award sabbaticals for AY 2026–27; post-merger criteria TBD under Kean policies.

Discussion: Seniority implications raised; President Acebo indicated likely compromise and clarity by early spring.

Task Force on Mental Health and Counseling

Motion: Create task force to support faculty, staff, and students during transition.

Moved by John Donnellan, seconded by Joyce Wright.

Amendment: Include union representation (moved by William Calathes; passed unanimously).

Volunteers: Bill Calathes, Martha Mooke, Sai Jambunathan, Meriem Bendaoud.

The administration will designate a representative.

Senate Structure Post-Merger

Initial outreach to Kean Provost; meeting scheduled Dec 15.

Comparative insights from Montclair–Bloomfield merger shared.

Program Reviews

Clarification: Continue program reviews; required for Middle States and strategic positioning.

Committee Membership Updates

Faculty & Professional Staff Affairs: Michael O'Neill approved.

Vacancies remain in Elections, Graduate Studies, Planning & Budget committees.

Announcements

Congratulations to Martha Mooke nominated for Best New Age Ambient Album (Grammy category).

Music Among Books – Dec 3, 2025, Greeney Library.

AFT 1839 Scholarships – \$1,000 each; deadline Jan 9, 2026.

Joe Riotta Award nominations extended to Dec 1, 2025.

President Acebo's Q&A and Update

Addressed concerns on:

Legislative bill and merger fairness.

Fiscal status: Operating deficit reduced from \$20M (2022) to \$6–8M; Moody's and Fitch upgrades.

Timeline for notices: Management notices by Dec or early Jan; program closure announcements precede personnel notices.

Voluntary separation packages are forthcoming.

Emphasized transparency, dignity, and shared governance during transition.

Motion of Appreciation

Motion: Express thanks and support for President Acebo and his team.

Moved by Joe Moskowitz, seconded by William Calathes. Motion carried unanimously.

Middle States Update

Presented by Scott O'Connor and Ruth Ortiz.

Self-study continues; critical for accreditation and Title IV eligibility.

Draft chapters under review; campus feedback in spring.

Graduate Studies Committee Proposal

Recompute GPA for retaken courses (limit under discussion).

Action: Motion tabled due to time constraints.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by,

Moitrayee Chatterjee, PhD

NJCU Senate Secretary